

Who's Spam is it anyway?

I would like to point out that international cooperation, accidental and deliberate, facilitates a great deal of spam which international participants would identify as US-originated.

Open proxies and relays are examples of unwitting complicity. I would urge the operators of international networks to move from a reactive to a proactive stance. Continue to improve documentation in whois registries for IP addresses, provide abuse contacts, and react promptly to reports of abuse. But go beyond that. Once an abuse paradigm is uncovered, investigate to uncover other instances of the same vulnerability before they are reported, hopefully before they are exploited. Bandwidth is more precious in other parts of the world and it's your resources that are being subverted.

More grave is the continuing issue of international landing pages. Target URL's in spam often point to hosts outside of the US, even when the promotion is clearly useful only to US recipients. The URL's often rely on DNS resolution, so not only is the hosting service provider involved, but also the registrar and the DNS provider [Note there are many international registrars for the .com TLD]. It has been my experience that the most objectionable content is hosted outside of the US. International providers who continue to accept this business, deserve our scorn and should accept responsibility for their role in the current epidemic.

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